

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 15, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 33 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 33 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

Information Disclosure Statement(s)

Applicants note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on September 11, 2003, and note that, although the other references cited thereon were initialed by the Examiner, the reference on the PTO/SB/08 form to U.S. Patent No. 4,543,659 to Ozaki was not explicitly initialed by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request that the reference to U.S. Patent No. 4,543,659 to Ozaki be made of record herein, and that that the examiner initial the Ozaki reference and return a copy of a corrected, initialed PTO/SB/08 form to the Applicants' attorney of record.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

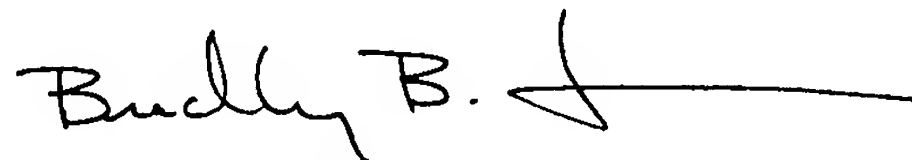
Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,685,080

Claims 1 through 11, and 26 through 33 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,685,080. Claims 12 through 25 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 14, 15, and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,685,080. Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 33 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley B. Jensen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Date: September 14, 2004
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